Development of Light Combat Aircraft

1437. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI.

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the original time schedule for design, development, testing and production of the Light Combat Aircraft;

(b) what progress has so far been made in developing a Light Combat Aircraft;

(c) by when the Light Combat Aircraft design and prototype expected and its manufacturing undertaken,

(d) whether there is any delay in this regard, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to import some combat aircrafts before the manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft is undertaken to replace the grounded squadrons of MIG-21's and MIG-23's; if so what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) The first prototype of LCA was scheduled to fly in 1991 and the series production was expected to start in 1994.

(b) The Project Definition Phase of the LCA has been completed Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) of the Light Combat Aircraft is being taken up in phases Government sanction is being sought for Phase I activities in which critical technologies are planned to be demonstrated Phase II of FSED is envisaged for integration of various technologies and will be carried out in parallel to the Phase I work. Due to the phased nature of FSED, the programee for production phase to follow is expected to be determined during the progress of FSED.

(c) The roll-out of the first LCA core technology demonstrator platform under Phase I is expected in 1995. As per current estimates, the manufacture of LCA is likely to start in the early years of the decade starting 2000.

(d) Yes, Sir. The reasons for delay are as under:—

(i) we have not had indigenous aircraft development programme for more than 25 years and competence in some advanced aeronautical technologies was therefore not built up;

(ii) access to and export clearance of some critical technologies from abroad (e.g. mainframe computers, aeronautics software, digital flight controls, composite materials etc.);

(iii) infrastructure facilities like wind tunnel for evaluating LCA configurations (some LCA models had to be tested in wind tunnels abroad);

(iv) time gap in finalisation of the strategy for post-Project Definition Phase activities in consultation with all concerned agencies/establishments and the user.

(e) No MIG-21 or MIG-23 Squadron is grounded at present. It would not be in the public interest to disclose Government plans regarding replacement of Combat aircraft of the IAF fleet.

पंजाब में ग्राम सुरक्षा संगठन

1438. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**

कुमारी आलिया :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि पंजाब मे आतंकवादी पंजाब प्रशासन द्वारा गठित ग्राम सुरक्षा संगठनों को निष्क्रिय बनाने की योजना. बना रहे हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में राज्य